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REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-referenced application are respectfully requested.

Upon entry of this reply, claims 1, 4-21, 28, and 31-39 will remain in the application.

Claims 1-31 were rejected as being allegedly anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102 by U.S. Patent No. 6,035,422 to Hohl, et al. ("the Hohl patent").

On January 4, 2005, Applicants' attorneys (Bing Ai, Registration No. 43,312, and Owais Siddiqui) had a teleconference with Examiner Harkness, in which the amendments presently being filed were discussed with and later informally presented to the Examiner. As amended, the claims now more particularly describe Applicants' inventions. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims as amended are not anticipated by the Hohl patent or any prior art of record and are in a condition of allowance.

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CONCLUSION

Applicants ask that all claims be allowed. Please apply any charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: January 6, 2005

C. Harris Reg! No. 32,030

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REG. NO. 43,312

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